

From: Julie Rubenstein
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/14/01 12:01pm
Subject: Comments on Microsoft

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I wish to offer my comment on settlement of the Microsoft case and important lingering issues I believe will still haunt Windows users, a group which pretty much equates to the general public at this point in our technological development.

I am a trained attorney, with basic education in antitrust law and a 25 year career in the public policy arena, currently working in the field for a United States Senator. It's been my observation as an early (1993) user of the Internet and a lifelong devotee of the Macintosh operating system, that Microsoft has pulled out every stop, at every opportunity, to prey upon its own customers throughout the distribution network as well as upon the end user market. I applauded the government's pursuit of this case and the excellent work Joel Klein performed on its behalf. Settling out at this point is a capitulation of important principles that will reverberate for many years to come, to the shame of this Administration. Is this the legacy you want to leave?

Further, I have grave concerns about allowing this monopoly to continue its overwhelming market dominance in this new era of terrorist threats, dangerous computer hackers and the possibility of network communications breakdowns. Reliance on a single operating system makes each and every one of us that much more vulnerable to this type of attack, so all the more reason to foster, not dampen, competition in this industry.

Thank you for your attention.

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